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For Immediate Release  
Please contact: Pamela E. Goldstein (973) 733-6368

### **James Calls for Firing Newark Schools Athletic Director**

Newark Mayor Sharpe James today called on Executive Schools Superintendent Marion Bolden to fire the systems athletic director for allowing foreign transfer students to play basketball for East Side High School "at the expense of local talent, who deserve to represent their city and school."

James claimed that Tom Giorgio, the former principal of East Side High School and current director of Health and Physical Education/After School Programs for the Newark School system, "allowed non-academic coaches from outside the city to put foreign students on their high school basketball teams, while bypassing local residents."

This practice is in direct defiance of the rules and regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), the sanctioning body for interscholastic high school athletics, he stated. The Mayor urged NJSIAA to immediately conduct a thorough investigation of the coaching staff and recruitment practices.

The Mayor's outcry comes on the heels of a report in Sunday's Star-Ledger that five foreign players, living together on Chestnut Street without adult supervision, were preparing to start for the East Side High School basketball team. Head coach Ed Leibowitz' plans ground to a halt last week, when the state athletic association suspended four of the five—guards--Marco Vukovic of Yugoslavia and forwards Tony Nkeruwem, Jeff Varem and Lucky Williams of Nigeria—over questions of their eligibility to play.

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#### **East Side ad 1**

**The three Nigerian students withdrew from the school Tuesday amid reports from the Immigration and Naturalization Service that it was reviewing visas of the five transfer students.**

**James called athletic supervisor Giorgio's failure to curtail the practice of using foreign students as frontline players "outrageous and indefensible.**

**"Any supervisor who was doing his job would carefully monitor the roster of local high school teams and should be concerned that foreign players are edging out local students."**

**The Mayor noted Giorgio previously had served as principal of East Side High School, but had been removed by former schools superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall and reassigned to the board's central office on Cedar Street. "If Giorgio failed as a principal, why make him a city wide director?" he asked.**

**Moreover, East Side coach Leibowitz, acknowledged in the Star-Ledger story that he had assisted the foreign students financially in providing food and shelter. NJSIAA rules distinctly state that you cannot give athletes money for these purposes, nor can coaches recruit for athletic advantage, the Mayor noted.**

**"These kids are brought in to enhance the team, but at the same time their own quality of life is questionable," he said, referring to the newspaper report that the youngsters exist on a diet of take out and fast food and live with little adult supervision.**